ערב שבת פרשת מקץ - ליל "זאת חנוכה" - ג' טבת תשפ"ד Reflection Points and Inflection Points:

When Do We Realize that We Have a Greater Destiny? The Case of Yosef

Torah-in-Motion, 8th Night of Chanukah, December 14, 2023 with Rabbi Benjamin J. Samuels, PhD

I. Pirsumei Nisa

1. TB Shabbat21b-22a

אָמֵר רַב כָּהֲנָא, דָרַשׁ רַב נָתָן בַּר מַנְיוּמִי מַשְׁמֵיה דְּרַבִּי תַּנְחוֹם:

גר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה שֶׁהִנִּיחָה לְמַעֲלָה מֵעֶשְׂרִים אַמָּה - פְּסוּלָה, כְּסוּכָּה וּכְמָבוֹי. וְאָמֵר רַב כְּהֲנָא, דְּרַשׁ רַב נָתָן בֵּר מַנְיוֹמִי מִשְּׁמֵיה דְּרַב תַּנְחוּם, מֵאי דְּכְתִיב: "וְהַבּוֹר רֵק אֵין בּוֹ מָיִם". מִמַשְׁמַע שֶׁנָאֱמַר: "וְהַבּוֹר רֵק" אֵינִי יוֹדֵע שֶּׁאֵין בּוֹ מַיִּם? אֶלֶא מַה תַּלְמוּד לוֹמֵר: "אֵין בּוֹ מִים" – מִים אֵין בּוֹ, אֲבָל נְחָשִׁים וְעַקְרַבִּים ישׁ בּוֹ. With regard to the essence of the matter Rav Kahana said that Rav Natan bar Manyumi taught in the name of Rabbi Tanḥum:

A Hanukkah lamp that one placed above twenty cubits^H is invalid, just as a sukka whose roofing is more than twenty cubits high, and just as an alleyway whose beam, its symbolic fourth partition in order to place an eiruv, is more than twenty cubits high, are invalid. The reason is the same in all three cases: People do not usually raise their heads and see objects at a height above twenty cubits. As there is a requirement to see all of these, they are deemed invalid when placed above that height. And the Gemara cites another statement that Rav Kahana said that Rav Natan bar Manyumi taught in the name of Rav Tanhum: What is the meaning of the verse that is written with regard to Joseph: "And they took him, and cast him into the pit; and the pit was empty, there was no water in it" (Genesis 37:24)? By inference from that which is stated: And the pit was empty, don't I know that there was no water in it? Rather, why does the verse say: There was no water in it? The verse comes to emphasize and teach that there was no water in it, but there were snakes and scorpions in it.

2. משך חכמה בראשית ל"ז:כ"ד

והבור רק אין בו מים – הרואה מקום שנעשה לו נס מברך ברוך שעשה לי נס במקום הזה. הפירוש כדברי אבודרהם דוקא שיצא מדרך הטבע. והא דמברך על נר חנוכה משום שנעשה נס בפך השמן שזה נגד הטבע. והנה עיקר הנס היה לנצחון מלכות אנטונינוס וישראל קבלו מלוכה מאתים שנה ולזכרון צריך להאיר נרות. ולזה סגי בחזותא בעלמא. אך להורות על נס פך השמן צריך דוקא דיהא שלטא ביה עינא תוך עשרים אמה ורמז לזה שהיה מאיר מתוך ההיכל ופתחו. של היכל גבוה כ׳ אמה

והנה ביוסף אמר ר' תנחומא במדרש שבשעה ששב יוסף מקבורת אביו שהציף בבור ולשם שמים נתכוין לברך ברוך שעשה לי נס במקום הזה. ועיקר הנס הוא מה שהעלוהו מהבור ובסבות השגחה נעשה לשר על כל מצרים, אך הברכה צריך לברך על דבר יוצא חוץ מהטבע, וזה שאמר ר' תנחום שבת כ"ב אבל נחשים ועקרבים יש בו והיה נס יוצא מטבע העולם. ולזה בירך ברוך שעשה לי נס, לכן נסמכו שני מאמרי ר' תנחום הוא ר' תנחומא דבמדרש כידוע להורות שבחנוכה וביוסף הנס היה הסבות מההשגחה נצחון ומלוכה רק שהברכה היה כאן על הבור שלא הזיקוהו נחשים וכאן על פך השמן. ויעוין ילקוט שמואל כ"ג סלע המחלקות שכשהיו באים דוד ואנשיו אותן ששה מאות ודוד היו מסתכלים ומברכים ברוך שעשה לי נס כו' צ"ל דסבר כמו דאמר קודם שמלאך בא מן השמים לכן היה חוץ מהטבע והיו מברכים. ומה שלא היו מברכים השאר על נס של דוד כמו שצריך לברך על אדם מסויים משום שרודפו היה שאול והוא ג"כ אדם מסויים ודו"ק בכ"ז

3. Bereishit Rabbah 100:8

וַיָּשָׁב יוֹסֵף מִצְרַיְמָה וגו׳ (בראשית ג, יד), רַבִּי לֵוִי וְרַבִּי יִצְחָק, [רבי לוי] אָמַר שֶׁלֹא זִמְנָן לְסְעוּדָה, אָמֵר רַבִּי תַּנְחוּמָא הוּא לֹא נִתְכַּוַן אֶלָּא לְשֵׁם שָׁמֵיִם, אָמֵר, לְשֶׁעָבַר אַבָּא מוֹשִׁיב לִי לְמַעְלָה מִיהוּדָה שֶׁהוּא מֶלֶך וּלְמִעְלָה מֵהְץ, וְהֵן לֹא אָמְרוּ כֵן שֶׁהוּא מְּכוֹר, וְעַכְשָׁיו אֵינוֹ בְּדִין שֶׁאֵשֵׁב לְמַעְלָה מֵהֶן, וְהֵן לֹא אָמְרוּ כֵן אֶלָא (בראשית ג, טוֹ) : לוּ יִשְׂטְמֵנוּ יוֹסֵף. רַבִּי יִצְחָק אָמֵר הָלַדְּ וְהַצִּיץ בְּאוֹתוֹ הַבּוֹר. אָמַר רַבִּי תַּנְחוּמָא הוּא לֹא נִתְכַּוּן אֻלָּא לִשִּׁם שָׁמַיִם, וְהֶם לֹא אָמְרוּ כֵּן אֶלָּא לוּ יִשְּטְמֵנוּ יוֹסֵף.

"Joseph returned to Egypt, he, and his brothers, and everyone who went up with him to bury his father, after he buried his father. Joseph's brothers saw that their father had died, and they said: Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and will repay us for all the evil that we did to him" (Genesis 50:14-15). "Joseph returned to Egypt..." Rabbi Levi and Rabbi Yitzḥak, said: It is because he did not invite them to the meal. Rabbi Tanḥuma said: His intention was only for the sake of Heaven. He said: 'In the past, father would seat me above Judah, who is king, and above Reuben, who is firstborn. Now, it is improper for me to sit above them.' But that is not what they said, but rather: "Perhaps Joseph will hate us." Rabbi Yitzḥak said: He went and peered into that pit. Rabbi Tanḥuma said: His intention was only for the sake of Heaven. But that is not what they said, but rather: "Perhaps Joseph will hate us."

4. מדרש תנחומא פ׳ ויחי ס׳ י״ז

וַיִּרְאוּ אֲחֵי יוֹסֵף כִּי מֵת אֲבִיהֶם. וּמָה רָאוּ עַתָּה שָׁפְּחֲדוּ. שֶׁלָּא בְּעֵת שֶׁחְזְרוּ מִקְבוּרַת אֲבִיהֶם רָאוּ שֻׁהָּלַף יוֹסֵף לְבָרֵף עַל אותו הַבּוֹר שֶׁהִשְׁלִיכוּהוּ שֶּׁחִיו בְּתוֹכוֹ, וּבֵרַף עָלִיו, כְּמוֹ שֶׁחַיָּב אָדָם לְבָרֵף עַל מְקוֹם שְׁעָשָׂה לִי נֵס בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה. וְכֵיוָן שֶׁרָאוּ כָּף, אָמְרוּ, עַכְשָׁו מֵת מָקוֹם שְׁעָשָׂה לִי נֵס בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה. וְכֵיוָן שֶׁרָאוּ כָּף, אָמְרוּ, עַכְשָׁו מֵת אָבִינוּ, לוּ יִשִּטְמֵנוּ יוֹסֵף וְהָשֵׁב יָשִׁיב לָנוּ אֵת כָּל הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר נְּמַלְנוּ אֹתוֹ. וַיְצַוּוּ אֶל יוֹסֵף לָאמֹר אָבִיך צְנָה וְגוֹי, כֹּה תאמְרוּ לְיוֹסֵף אָנָּא וְגוֹי. חַפַּשְנוּ וְלֹא מְצָאנוּ שֶׁצְּנָה יַעֲקֹב דְּבָר זֶה. אֶלֶא בּוֹא וּרְאֵה בַּמָּה גָדוֹל כֹּחַ הַשָּׁלוֹם, שֶׁכָּתָב הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּף הוּא בְּתוֹרָתוֹ עַל כֹּחַ הַשָּׁלוֹם אֵלוּ הַדְּבָרִים.

4. Midrash Rabbi Tanchuma, Parshat Vayechi, 17 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, etc. (Gen. 50:15). What did they see that frightened them? As they were returning from the burial of their father, they saw their brother go to the pit into which they had hurled him, in order to bless it. He blessed the pit with the benediction "Blessed be the place where He performed a miracle for me," just as any person is required to pronounce a blessing at the place where a miracle had been performed in his behalf. When they beheld this they cried out: Now that our father is dead, Joseph will hate us and will fully requite us for all the evil which we did unto him. And they sent a message unto Joseph, saying: Thy father did command ... "So shall ye say unto Joseph: Forgive" (Gen. 50:15–16). We have searched the entire Scripture and are unable to find any place where Jacob uttered this remark. This statement is introduced to teach us the importance of peace. The Holy One, blessed be He, wrote these words in the Torah for the sake of peace alone.

II. When Did Yosef Realize that He Had a Greater Destiny? <u>Terminus ad quem</u>

1. בראשית פי ויגש מ"ה:א

(א) וְלָא־יָכֵּל יוֹפַׁף לְהָתְאַפַּק לְכָל הַנִּצָּבִים עָלָיו וַיִּקְדֶּא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אָישׁ מֵעָלֵי וְלֹא־עֻמַד אִישׁ אִתֹּוֹ בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף אֶל־ אחיו:

- (בֹ) וַיִּתֶּן אֶת־קֹלָוֹ בָּבְּכֵי וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּשְׁמֵע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה:
- (ג) וַיּּאֹמֵר יוֹסֵף אֵלֹ־אֵחָיוֹ אֲגֵי יוֹסֵׁף הַעְּוֹד אָבָּי חֻי וִלְאֹ־יָכְלַוּ אֵחָיוֹ לַעַנְוֹת אֹתֹוֹ כֵּי נִבְהַלָּוּ מִפָּנֵיו:
- (ד) וַיּאֹמֵר יוֹמַף אֵל־אֵחֵיו גִּשֹׁרַנָא אֲלַי וַיַּגָּשׁוֹ וַיִּאֹמֵר אַנִּלֹ יוֹמֵף אַחִיבֶּם אֲשֶׁר־מְכַּרְתֵּם אֹתַי מִצְרָיִמְה:
 - (ה) ועתהו אַל־תַּעַצָבוּ וֹאַל־יָּחָר בַּעֵינַיֹבֶם בֶּי־מִכַרְתַּם אֹתֵי הַנַּה בֵּי לְמֵחְיַה שָׁלַחַנִי אֵלהִים לְפָנֵיכֵם:
 - (ו) כִּי־זֶה שִׁנָתַיִם הָרָעָב בָּקֵרֶב הָאָרֶץ וְעוֹד הָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים אֲשֵׁר אֵין־חָרִישׁ וְקָצֵיר:
 - (ז) וַיִּשְׂלַחֵנִי אֱלֹהִים לַפְנֵיכֶּם לַשְּׂוֹם לָכֵם שְׁאֵרֵית בָּאָרֵץ וֹלְהַחַיְוֹת לַכֶּם לִפְלֵיטָה גִּדלָה:

(ח) וְעַתָּה לְא־אַתֶּם <mark>שְׁלַחְתֶּם</mark> אֹתִי הֵׁנָּה כָּי הָאֱלֹהֵים וַיְשִׁימֵנֵי לְאָׁב לְפַרְעֹה וּלְאָדוֹ(לְכָל־בֵּיתֹוֹ וּמֹשֵׁל בְּכָל־אֶרְץ מִצְרֵיִם:

1. Bereshit 45:1

(1) Yosef could not control himself before all who were standing before him, and he called, "Remove everyone from before me." So, no one was standing with him when Yosef made himself known to his brothers. (2) He let forth his voice in weeping, and the Egyptians heard and Paroh's house heard. (3) Yosef said to his brothers, "I am Yosef. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him because they were terrified of him. (4) Yosef said to his brothers, "Please, approach me." They approached, and he said, "I am Yosef your brother whom you sold to Egypt. (5) Now, do not be pained, and do not be angry with yourselves that you sold me here, for God sent me before you to be a source of sustenance. (6) For it is two years that the famine is in the land, and there are another five years in which there will be no plowing and harvesting. (7) God sent me before you to make for you a remnant in the land, and to preserve life for you, that there be many survivors. (8) And now, it was not you who sent me here, but God; He set me as father to Paroh and master of all his house, and ruler throughout all of the land of Egypt.

2. בראשית נ':י"ד

(יד) וַיַּשָׁב יוֹסֵף מִצְרַיִּמָהֹ הָוּא וָאֵחָיו וְכָל־הָעֹלֵים אִתְּוֹ לְקְבָּר אֱת־אָבֵיו אַחֲרֵי קָבְרוֹ אֱת־אָבֵיו:

ּ (טו) וַיִּרְאָוּ אֲהֵריוֹםֵף בִּיתֵּת אֲבִיהֶם וַיִּאֹמְרוּ לַוּ יִשְׂטְמֵנוּ יוֹסֵף וְהָשֵׁב יָשִׁיבׁ לָנוּ אֵתוֹ בּ

(טז) וַיִצַוּוֹ אֵל־יוֹסֵף לַאמר אַבִּידְ צְוָה לְפַנֵי מותו לַאמר:

(זי) פַּהֹ־תּאֹמְרָוּ לְיוֹסֵׁף אֲנָּאֹ שָׂא נָא ׁ פָּשִׁע אַחֶידּ וְחַפָּאתָם ׁ פִּיּרָעֲה גְמָלוּדְּ וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא לְפָשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבֶידְ וַיִּבְּדְ נִיסָף בדברם אליני

(יח) וַיֶּלְכוֹ גַּם־אֱחָׁיו וַיִּפְּלְוּ לְפָנֵיו וַיָּאמְרוּ הַנֵּנְוּ לְדְּ לַעֲבַדֵים:

(יט) וַיָּאמֶר אַלֶהֶם יוֹסֶף אַל תִּירָאוֹ כֵּי הַתַּחַת אֵלהִים אַנִי:

(כ) וָאַתֶּם חֲשַׁבְתֵּם עָלַי רָעָה אֱלֹהִים חֲשָׁבָה לְטֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֶׂה כַּיִּוֹם הַזָּה לְהַחֵיְת עַם־רֵב:

(כא) {שביעי} ועתה אַלתִּירָאוּ אַנכִי אַכַלבַּל אָתַכַם ואַת עַפְּכַם וְינַחַם אוֹתָם וְיִדְבַּר עַל־לְבַּם:

2. Bereshit 50:14

(14) After he buried his father, Yosef returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father. (15) Yosef's brothers saw that their father had died and said, "If Yosef harbors hatred against us, he will surely pay us back for all the evil that we dealt him." (16) They commanded to tell Yosef, saying, "Your father commanded before his death, saying, (17) 'Thus should you say to Yosef: 'I beseech you; please, forgive the crime of your brothers and their sin for they have dealt badly with you.' And now, please, forgive the crime of the servants of your father's God." Yosef wept when they spoke to him. (18) His brothers also went and fell before him, saying, "Here, we are your slaves." (19) Yosef said to them, "Do not fear. Am I in place of God? (20) Though you meant it as evil against me, God meant it for good, in order to do – as is clear today –to keep many people alive. (21) And now, do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones. He comforted them and spoke to their hearts.

III. When Did Yosef Realize that He Had a Greater Destiny? <u>Terminus ad quo</u>

<u>1. בראשית לי:כ"ב</u>

(כב) וַיִּזְכָּר אֱלֹהֵים אֶת־רָחֱל וַיִּשְׁמֵע אֱלֵיהַ אֱלֹהָים וַיִּפְתַּח אֶת־רַחְמֵהֹּ:

(כג) וַתַּהַר וַתַּלֶד בַּן וַתְּאמָר אַסַף אַלֹהַים אַת־חַרְפַּתִי:

(כד) וַתִּקָרָא אֱת־שִׁמֶוֹ יוֹסֵף לֵאמֶר יֹסֵף יִהוָנָה לִי בֵּן אַחֵר:

ָּ (כה) וַיְהָּי בַּאֲשֶׁר יָלְדָׁה רָחֵל אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיָּאֹמֵר יַעַקבׁ אֵל־לָבָּן <mark>שַׁלְּחַנִּי</mark> וְאֵלְבָּה אֵל־מִקוֹמֵי וּלַאַרצִי:

1. Bereshit 30:22

(22) God remembered Rachel and God listened to her, and He opened her womb. (23) She conceived and bore a son and she said, "God has gathered my shame." (24) She named him Yosef, saying, "May Hashem add to me another son." (25) When Rachel bore Yosef, Yaakov said to Lavan, "Send me forth and let me go to my place and my land.

בראשית י״ב:א פ׳ לך לך וַיּאֹמֶר י״י אֶל אַבְרָם לֶּךְ לְּדְ מֵאַרְצְּדְ וֹמְמֵּוֹלַדְּתְּדְ וּמְבֵּית אָבִיךְ אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךֶ בראשית כ״ד:ד פ׳ חיי שרה כִּי אֶל אַרְצִי וְאֶל מוֹלַדְתִּי תֵּלֵךְ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשֶּׁה לִבְנִי לְיִצְחָק בראשית ל״ב:י פ׳ וישלח יאמֶר יַצְקֹב אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי אַבְרָהָם וֵאלֹהֵי אָבִי יִצְחָק יִי הָאמֵר אֵלֵי שׁוּב לְאַרְצְךְּ וּלְמוֹלַדְתְּדְּ וֹאֵיטִיבָּה עִפֵּךְּ

2. רשב"ם בראשית ל':כ"ה שלחני – כי עתה כשנולד יוסף נשלמו שבע שנים אחרות (בראשית כ"ט :כ"ז,לי) של רחל

2. Rashbam Bereshit 30:25 Shallecheni GIVE ME LEAVE TO GO BACK: For now that Joseph was born, the service of "another seven years" (Gen. 24.27) for Rachel was completed.

<u>3. ר' דוד צבי הופמן בראשית ל':כ"ה</u> (כה) ויהי כאשר וגוי – הולדת יוסף על ידי האשה האהובה נראית בעיני יעקב כסימן מיוחד לחסדו ית', ועל כן הוא מאמין שיוכל להעיז עתה לחזור למולדתו

4. רש"י בראשית ל": ב"ה כאשר ילדה רחל את יוסף – משנולד שטנו של עשו, שנאמר: בית יעקב אש ובית יוסף להבה (עבדיה א": י"ח), אש בלא להבה אינו שולט למרחוק, משנולד יוסף בטח ורצה לשוב

<u>4. Rashi Bereishit 30:25</u> באשר ילדה רחל את יוסף WHEN RACHEL HAD BORN JOSEPH – after the birth of him who was to become Esau's adversary (Bereshit Rabbah 73:7) – as it is said (Obadiah 1:18) "And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame and the house of Esau for stubble". Fire (Jacob) that has no flame (Joseph) has no effect at a distance. Therefore, when Joseph was born Jacob put his trust in the Holy One, blessed be He, and wished to return home (Obadiah 1:18).

<u>5. מדרש רבה בראשית ל׳:כ״ה וְ</u>יְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה רָחֵל אֶת יוֹסֵף – כֵּיוָן שֶׁנוֹלַד יוֹסֵף נוֹלַד שִּׁטְנוֹ שֶׁל עֵשְׂוּ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר ׄ (בראשית ל׳:כ״ה): וַיּאֹמֶר יַּצְקֹב אֶל לָבָן שַׁלְחֵנִי וְאֵלְכָה אֶל מְקוֹמִי וּלְאַרְצִי, דְּאָמַר רַבִּי פִּינְחָס בְּשֵׁם רַבִּי שְׁמוּאֵל בַּר נַחְמָן מָסוֹרֶת הִיא שֶׁאֵין עֵשָׂו נוֹפֵל אֶלָּא בְּיַד בָּנֶיהָ שֶׁל רָחֵל, חֲדָא הוּא דִכְתִיב (ירמיהו מ״ט :כ׳): אִם לוֹא יִסְחַבוּם צִעִירֵי הַצִּאן, וַלַמֵּה הוּא קוֹרֵא אוֹתַן צִעִירֵי הַצּאן, שֶׁהֶם צִעִירִים שֶׁבַּשְׁבַסִים

IV. Call Narratives

A. Avraham

1. בראשית י"ב:א

ָוַיָּאַמֶּר הֹ אֶלִיאַבְּלָּיְם לֶּדִּ־לְּדָּ מֵ<mark>אָרְצְדָּ וּמִפְּוֹלַדְתְּדָּ</mark> וּמְבֵּית אָבֵידְ אֶליהָאָרֶץ אֲעֶר אַרְאֶדָ:

(ב) וְאֶעֶשְׁךֹּ לְנְוֹי נָּדִּוֹל וַאֲבָּרֶכְדָּ וַאֲנַדְלָה שְׁמֻדְּ וֶהְיֵה בְּרָכָה:

ָג) וַאֲבֶרְכָהֹ מְבָרְכֶּידּ וּמְקַכֶּלְדָּ אָאֶר וְנִבְרְכִוּ בְדֹּ כָּל מִשְׁפְּתִת הָאֲדָמָה:

(ד) וַיֵּלֵדְ אַבְרָם כַּאֲשֶׁר דְבֵּר אֱלָיוֹ ה' וַיֵּלֶדְ אִתְּוֹ לָוֹט וְאַבְּרָם בֶּרְחָמֵשׁ שַׁנִים וְשִׁבְעִים שַׁנָּה בְּצֵאתוֹ מֶחָרָן:

1. Bereshit 12:1

(1) Hashem said to Avram, "Go forth from your land, and from your native land, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. (2) I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. (3) And I will bless those who bless you, and one who curses you I will curse, and all the families of the land will be blessed through you." (4) Avram went as Hashem had spoken to him and Lot went with him, and Avram was seventy-five years old when he left Charan.

2. רמב"ם עבודה זרה וחוקות הגוים א':

ואביו ואמו וכל העם עובדים עבודה זרה, והוא היה עובד עמהן, וליבו משוטט ומבין, עד שהשיג דרך האמת והבין קו הצדק מדעתו הנכונה, וידע שיש שם אלוה אחד, והוא מנהיג הגלגל, והוא ברא הכל, ואין בכל הנמצא אלוה חוץ ממנו

וידע שכל העם טועים, ודבר שגרם להם לטעות זה שעובדים את הכוכבים ואת הצורות, עד שאבד האמת מדעתם. **ובן ארבעים שנה הכיר אברהם את בוראו**

2. Rambam Avodah Zarah 1:3 After this mighty man was weaned, he began to explore and think. Though he was a child, he began to think [incessantly] throughout the day and night, wondering: How is it possible for the sphere to continue to revolve without having anyone controlling it? Who is causing it to revolve? Surely, it does not cause itself to revolve. He had no teacher, nor was there anyone to inform him. Rather, he was mired in Ur Kasdim among the foolish idolaters. His father, mother, and all the people [around him] were idol worshipers, and he would worship with them. [However,] his heart was exploring and [gaining] understanding. Ultimately, he appreciated the way of truth and understood the path of righteousness through his accurate comprehension. He realized that there was one God who controlled the sphere, that He created everything, and that there is no other God among all the other entities. He knew that the entire world was making a mistake. What caused them to err was their service of the stars and images, which made them lose awareness of the truth.

Abraham was forty years old when he became aware of his Creator.

B. Shimshon

1. שופטים י״ג:א (א) ניסׁ(פוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל לַצְשְׂוֹת הָרֶע בְּצִינֵי יְהְוֶֹה וַיִּהְנֵם יְהְוֶה בְּיַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים אַרְבָּעִים שְׁנָה:
 (ב) וַיְהִי ֹּאִישׁ אֶחָד מִצְּרְעֶה מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת הַדְּנֵי וּשְׁמִוֹ מָנֵוֹחַ וְאִשְׁתִּוֹ עֲקָרָה וְלָא יָלֵדְה:
 (ג) וַיֵּבֶר מְלָאַדְ־יְהְוָה אֶל־הָאִשֶׁה וַיָּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ הָנֵּה־יֵּצְא אַתְּץְקָרָה וְלָא יָלַדְתְּ וְהָרָית וְיָלַדְתְּ בֵּן:
 (ה) כִּיֹ הָנָּדְ הָלָה וְיֹלַדְתְּ בַּן וּמוֹרָה לֹאיַיַעֲלֵה עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ כֵּיינְזֵיר אֱלֹהֶים יֵהְיֶנֶה הַבַּעַר מִן־הַבָּטֶן וְהֹוּא יָחֵל לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְּד יִשְׁרָאֵל מְיֵיֵדְ פְּלִשְׁתִּים:
 ישְׁרָאֵל מְיֵּדְ פִּלְשְׁתִּים:

1. Shofetim 13:1

(1) The Children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of Hashem; and Hashem delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. (2) There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and didn't bear. (3) The angel of Hashem appeared to the woman, and said to her, "See now, you are barren, and haven't born; but you shall conceive, and bear a son. (4) Now therefore please beware and drink no wine or strong drink, and don't eat any unclean thing. (5) For, behold, you shall conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb. And he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

C. Yirmiyahu haNavi

1. ירמיהו א׳(א) דִּבְרֵי יְרְמְיָהוּ בֶּן־חִלְקֹיֶהוּ מִרְהַכְּהְנִים ֹ אֲשֶׁר בַּעְנָתוֹת בְּאֶנֶתוֹ בְּאֶנֶתוֹ בְּלֶבְרֹי יִרְמְיָהוּ בֶּרְיִמְלִּהוּ בֶּרְ־יִּאְמִוֹן מֶלֶךְּ יְהוּדֵה בִּשְׁלֹשׁ־עֶשְׁרֵה שָׁנֶה לְמְלְכִוֹ:
 (ה) בְּשֶׁרֶם [אֶצְרְךְּ] (אצורך) בַּבֶּטֶן יְדַעְתִּיךְ וּבְטֶרֶם תַּצֵא מֵרֶחֶם הִקְדַּשְׁתִּיךּ נָבִיא לַגּוֹיֻם נְתַתִּידְּ:
 (ו) נָאמַר אֲהָהּ אֵדֹנֵי יֵהוֹח הַנֵּה לְּא־יָדֻעְתִּי דַּבֵּר כִּיזַעֵר אָנְכִי:

- ָנז) וַיָּאמֶר יְהוָהֹ אֵלֵי אַל־תּאמָר נָעַר אָנָכִי בִּי עֵל־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר <mark>אֲשְׁלְחֲד</mark>ּ תַּלֵּדְ וְאֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֲצַוְּדַ תְּדַבֵּר:
 - ָר) אַל־תִּירָא מִפְּנִיתֶם כֵּיאִתְּדְּ אֲנֵי לְהַצְּלֶדְ נְאָם־יְהֹוָה:
 - (ט) וַיִּשְׁלַח הֹ אֵתֹּ־יָדֹּוֹ וַיַּגַע עַלֹּ־בֵּיֹ וַיִּאֹבֶר הֹ אֱלֵי הְנֵּה נְתַתִּי דְבָרֵי בְּפִיךְ:

1. Yirmeyahu 1:1 (1) The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, (2) to whom the word of Hashem came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. (3) It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, to the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, to the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. (4) Now the word of Hashem came to me, saying, (5) "Before I formed you in the belly I knew you, and before you came forth out of the womb I sanctified you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." (6) Then I said, "Ah, Lord Hashem! Behold, I don't know how to speak; for I am a child." (7) But Hashem said to me, "Don't say, 'I am a child'; for to whomever I shall send you, you shall go, and whatever I shall command you, you shall speak. (8) Don't be afraid because of them; for I am with you to deliver you," says Hashem. (9) Then Hashem put forth His hand, and touched my mouth; and Hashem said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

2. אברבנאל ירמיהו א':ו

וסיפר הכתוב שירמיהו השיב על דברי השם אהה השם אלהים הנה לא ידעתי דבר כי נער אנכי, והרב המורה נמשך לדעתו שהנבואה לא תחול כי אם על המוכנים אליה בחכמה ובמדות ובטבע היצירה חשב שא"א שתמצא בנערים וכתב שהנער האמור בכאן אינו מעט השנים אבל שהוא כמו הנער הנאמר בבנימן שלחה הנער אתי (בראשית מג, ח) והנער יעל עם אחיו (שם מד, לג), וכמו הנער הנאמר ביוסף ושם אתנו נער עברי (שם מא, יב) והיו כל אחד מהם מבן שלושים שנה, והנער הנאמר ביהושע ומשרתו יהושע בן נון נער (שמות לג, יא) והוא היה בן מי שנה כמו שהביאו בפרק לייב חייב, וחוץ מכבוד חכמתו אין הדבר כן ואין הנדון דומה לראיה כי הנער הנאמר בבנימין היה מיחסו אל אביו ואל אחיו להיותו הקטן שבהם והנער הנזכר ביוסף ויהושע ענינו משרת וכמו שכתב הרייר רבי אברהם אבן עזרא**, ולא נכריח אנחנו שהיה ירמיהו נער קטן בשנים מכח שם נער בלבד** כמו שחשב הרב אלא מכח אומרו הנה לא ידעתי דבר כי נער אנכי ואם הוא היה בן שלשים או ארבעים שנה **איך לא ידע לדבר אלא שזה מורה שהיה בעצם ואמת מעט השנים** ולא תמצא בלשון הזה בבנימן ולא ביוסף ולא ביהושע, וכדי להרחיק מחשבות הרב ותואניו הקדים הכתוב לבאר שירמיהו התחיל לנבאות בימי יאשיהו שלשה עשר שנה למלכו ופסוק מלא הוא שנבא ארבעים שנה כמו שזכרתי ואחר החרבן הלך למצרים ועמד שם שנים רבות מבלי נבואה עד יום מותו כדברי הרב, וחכמי היוונים מעידים שדבר עמו אפלטון במצרים, ולפי זה מהתחלת נבואתו עד מותו עברו יותר מחמשים שנה **והוא המוכיח שכאשר התחיל בנבואה לא היה אלא בכמות י"ב שנה או ט"ו שנה**, וכבר ייעד עוד על אמתת זה מה שמצאנו ששני רבות אחרי היותו נביא אמר לו השם לא תקח לד אשה ולא תוליד בנים במקום הזה יורה שעדיין לא היה נשוי אשה וכל זה מוכיח שהיה נער מעט שנים כמו שאמר ואיך יכחיש הרב מציאות הנבואה בנערות והלא שמואל הרואה נער היה ורך בשנים בהנבאו וספורו יורה עליו אלא שדעת הרב המורה בהכנות הנבואה אינו מוכרח לא בכללו ולא בחלקיו.

D. Shemuel haNavi

- ָּר. **שמואל א ג׳:(אְ) וְהַנִּעָר שִׁמוּאֶל** מְשָׁרֵת אֶתְ־יְהוּוָה לְפְנֵי עֵלֵי וּדְבַּרְ־יְהוֹוָה הָיָה יָקָר בַּיָּמֵים הָהֵּם אֵין חָזּוֹן נִפְרֵץ:
 - (ב) וַיְהִל בַּיָּוֹם ֻ הַהֹּוּא וְעֵלֻי שׁבֵּב בִּמְקוֹמֵוֹ וְעֵינָוֹ הֵחֵלּוּ כַהֹּוֹת לָאׁ יוֹכַל לְרְאִות:
 - (ג) וַגַר אֱלֹהִים טֵרֶם יִכְבֶּה וּשְׁמוּאֱל שֹׁכֶב בְּהֵיכַל יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם אֲרָון אֱלֹהִים:
 - (ד) וֹיִקְרָא יְהוָה אֶל־שְׁמוּאֵל וַיָּאמֶר הְנֵּנִי:
 - (ה) וַיָּרֶץ אֶלֹעלִי וַיִּאמֶר הִנְנִי כֵּי־קָרָאת לִי וַיִּאמֶר לְא־קָרָאתי שִׁוּב שְׁכֶב וַיִּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁבָּב:
- (וֹ) וַלִּסֶף יְחֹנָה קְרָא עוֹד שְׁמוּאֵל וַיָּקָם שְׁמוּאֵל וַיֵּלֶךּ אֶל־עֵלִי וַיְּאֹמֶר הִנְּיִ כִּי קָרָאתָ לֵי וַיְּאֹמֶר לֹא־קָרָאתֵי בְּנָי שְׁוּב שַׁבֵּב:
 - ַנז) וּשְׁמוּאֵّל טֶרֶם יָדַע אֶת־יְהֹוָה וְטֶרֶם יִנְּלֶה אֵלָיו דְּבַר־יְהֹוָה:
- ָּ(ח) נַיֹּסֶף יְתֹּוָהֹ קְרָאֹ־שְׁמֹוַאֵלֹ בַּשְּׁלִיֹשָׁתֹ נַלָּקְםׁ נַנִּלֶּךְ אֶל־עֲלִי וֹנִיאמֶר הְנְנִי כִּי קְבָאתָ לֵי נַנָּאתָ בְּנִער:
- (ט) וַנּאֹמֶר עֵלִי לִשְׁמוּאֵל ֹלֶךְ וֹ שְׁכָב ֹ וְהָיָה ֹאִם־יִקְרָא אֵלֶיךּ וְאָמַרְתָּ דַּבֵּר יְהוָה כִּי שֹׁמֵעַ עַבְדֶּךְ וַיִּלֶדְ שְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּשְׁכֵּב במקומו:
 - (י) וַיָּבָא יָהוָה וַיִּתִיצַב וַיִּקְרָא כָפַעַם־בָּפַעם שְמוּאֵל | שְמוּאֵל וַיִּאמֵר שְמוּאֵל דַבֶּר כֵּי שֹמֵע עַבְדֵּך:

1. Shemuel I 3:1 (1) And the child Samuel served Hashem before Eli. And the word of Hashem was precious in those days; visions were not frequent. (2) And it came to pass at that time, when Eli had laid down in his place, — now his eyes had begun to grow dim, that he could not see — (3) and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel had laid down to sleep in the temple of Hashem where the ark of God was, (4) that Hashem called to Samuel. He said, "Here I am." (5) And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. (6) And Hashem called yet again, "Samuel". And Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." And he answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." (7) Now Samuel did not yet know Hashem; neither was the word of Hashem yet revealed to him. (8) And Hashem called Samuel again a third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; for you called me." And Eli perceived that Hashem was calling the child. (9) Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if you are called, that you shall say, 'Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears." So Samuel went and lay down in his place. (10) And Hashem came, and stood, and called as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel said, "Speak; for Your servant hears."

D. Yoshiyahu (Josiah) haMelekh

1. דברי הימים ב ל"ד:א

(א) **בֶּרְשְׁמוֹנֶה שָׁנִים יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ בְמֶלְכֶו**ׁ וּשְׁלֹשֵׁים וְאַחַתוֹ שָׁנָּה מְלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלָם:

(ב) וַיַּעשׁ הַיָּשֶׁר בִּעִינֵי יִהוָה וַיָּלֶךְ בִּדַרְכֵי דְּוֵיד אָבְּיו וְלֹא־סֵר יָמֵין וּשְׁמְאוֹל:

(ג) וּבִשְׁמוֹנֶּה שְׁנִּים לְמִּלְכוֹ וְהוֹא עֹזְדֵּנוּ נַעַר הֵחֵּל לִדְּרוֹשׁ לֵאֹלֹהֵי דָּוִיד אָבֵיו וּבִשְׁתִּים עֶשְׁרֵה שָׁנָּה הַחֵל לְטַהֵּר אֶת־ יִהוּדָה וִירִוּשָׁלֵם מִן־הַבָּמוֹת וְהָאֲשֶׁרִים וְהַפְּסָלִים וְהַפְּסֶלִית:

(ד) וֹיְנַתְּצָּוֹ לְפָנָיו אֵת מִיְבְּחָוֹת הַבְּעָלִים ְהָחַפְּנֵים אֲשֶׁר־לְמַעְלָה מֵעְלֵיהֶם גִּדֵּע וְהָאֲשֵׁרִים וְהַפְּסְלֵים וְהַפְּסֶכּוֹת שְׁבִּר וְהָדֵּק וָיִּוֹרִק עַל־פַּנֵי הַקָּבַרִים הַזּבְחִים לָהֵם:

1. Divrei HaYamim II 34:1

(1) Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. (2) And he did that which was right in the eyes of Hashem, and walked in the ways of David his father, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. (3) For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the Asherim, and the graven images, and the molten images.

E. Daniel

- **1. דניאל א׳:א** (א) בּשְׁנַת שָׁלּוֹשׁ לְמַלְכֻוּת יְהוֹיָקֵים מֶלֶדְ־יְהוּדֶה בָּא נְבוּכַדְנָאצִר מֱלֶדְ־בָּבֶל יְרוּשָׁלַם וַיָּצֵר עִרָּה: ערנה:
- ָרָׁבֶׁ וְּאֲדֹנָי בְּיָדוֹ אֶת־יְהוֹיָקִים מֱלֶדְ־יְהוּדָּה וּמִקְצָת ׁכְּלֵי בֵית־הֵמֱלֹהִים וַיְבִיאַם אֶרֶץ־שִׁנְעָר בֵּית אֱלֹהֵיו וָאֵת־הַכֵּלִים הַבִּיא בֵּית אוֹצֵר אֵלֹהֵיו:
 - ָּ(גֹ) וַיָּאמֶר הַמֵּלֶךְ לָאַשִּׁפָנַז רָב סֶּרִיסָיו לְהַבִּיא מִבָּנֵי יִשְּׁרָאֵל וּמְזֵּרַע הַמְּלוּכָה וּמְן־הַפַּרְתִּמֵים :
- (ד) יְלָדֵיִם אֲשֶׁר אֵירְבָּהֶם כָּלִּמֹאוּם וְטוֹבֵּי מַרְאֶה וּמֵשְׂכָּלֵים בְּכָל־חְכְמָּה וְיִּדְעֵי דַעַתֹּ וֹמְבִינֵי מַדְּע וַאֲשֶׁר כְּחַ בָּהֵם לַעַמָד בְּהֵיכֵל הַמֵּלֶד וְלָלַמְדֶם סֵפֵר וּלִשְׁוֹ כַּשְׁדִּים:
 - (ה) וַיְמֵוֹ לָהֶהֹם הַפֶּֿלֶךְ דְּבַּרֹ־יִוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ מִפַּת־בָּג ֹהַפֶּלֶדְ וֹּמִיּיו מִשְׁתִּיו וְלְגַדְּלֶם שָׁנִים שָׁלֵוֹשׁ וּמִקְצְתָּם יַעַמְדָוּ לפני המלד:
 - (ו) ויהי בהם מבני יהודה דניאל חנניה מישאל ועזריה:
- **1. Daniel 1:**(1) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and besieged it.(2) And Adonai gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God; and he carried them into the land of Shinar to the house of his god,

and he brought the vessels into the treasure-house of his god. (3) And the king spoke to Ashpenaz his chief officer, that he should bring from the children of Israel, and from the royal seed, and from the nobles, (4) youths in whom there was no blemish, who were fair to look upon, and skilled in all wisdom, and skilled in knowledge, and discerning in thought, and such as had ability to stand in the king's palace; and that he should teach them book learning and the language of the Chaldeans. (5) And the king appointed for them a daily portion of the king's food, and of the wine which he drank, that they should be raised for three years; that at their end, they might stand before the king. (6) Now there were among them from the children of Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

F. Esther haMalkah

1. אסתר ב׳:ח וַיְהִי בְּהִשָּׁמֵע דְּבַר־הַמֶּ(לֶדְּ וְדָתֹּוֹ וְבְהִקּבֵּץ **נְעָרִוֹת רַבְּּוֹת** אֶל־שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה אֶל־יַד הַגָּי וַתִּלְּקֹח אֶסְתֵּר אֶל־ בֵּית הַמֵּלֵדְ אֵל־יֵד הַגַּי שֹׁמֵר הַנָּשִׁים:

<u>1. Esther 2:8</u> When the king's word and his law were heard, and when many young women were gathered to Shushan the castle, to the charge of Hegai, Esther was taken to the king's house, to the charge of Hegai, keeper of the woman.

אסתר די:ייג

וַנְּאמֶר מְרְדֶּכֵי לְהָשִּׁיב אֶל־אֶסְתֵּר אַל־תְּדָמֵי בְנַפְשֵׁׁךְ לְהִמָּלֵט בִּית־הָמֶלֶדְ מִכְּל־הַיְּהוּדֵים: (יד) כֵּי אִם־הַחֲרֵשׁ תַּחֲרִישִׁי בָּעֵת הַזּאֹת רֶרַוּח וְהַצְּלֶּה יַצְמְוֹד לַיְּהוּדִים מִפְּקוֹם אַחֲר וְאַתְּ וּבִית־אָבֶיוּ תּאבֵדוּ **וּמִי יוֹדֵע** אָ**ם־לְעֵת כָּוֹאת הָגָּעַתְּ לַמַּלְכִּוּת:**(טו) וַתָּאמֶר אֶסְתָּר לְהָשִׁיב אֶל־מְרְדֶּבֵי: (טז) לֵךְּ כְּוֹס אֶת־כָּל־הַיְּהוּדִּים הַנְּמְצְאִים בְּשׁוּשָׁן וְצִּוּמוּ עָׁלֵי וְאַל־תּאֹכְלוּ וְאַל־תִּשְׁתִּוּ שְׁלְשֶׁת יָמִים לַיְלֶה וְיִוֹם גַּם־אֲנֵי וְנַעֲרֹתָי אָצָיִם בֵּן וּבְבֵּן אָבְוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵשֵׁר לִא־כַּדָּת וְכַאשֵׁר אָבַדְתִּי אָבָדִתִּי (יז) וַיִּעַבְּר מְרִדֶּכֵי וַנִּעשׁ כְּלֵל אֵשִּׁר־צִּוְתָה עָלָיו אֵסְתֵּר:

2. Esther 4:13 Mordechai said to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine to yourself that you shall escape in the king's house more than all the Judeans. (14) For, if you will indeed remain silent at this time, relief and salvation will arise for the Judeans from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if for a time such as this you attained royalty?" (15) Esther said to reply to Mordechai:(16) "Go and assemble all the Judeans who are present in Shushan and fast for me. Do not eat and do not drink for three days, night and day. I and my maids, too, will fast so. And thus I will go to the king, against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (17) Mordechai passed, and he did all that Esther had commanded him.

V. When Did Yosef Realize that He Had a Greater Destiny? In medias res

Parshat Vayeitzei

1. From Birth

Parshat Vayeishev [skip parshat Vayishlach]

- 2. When his father gives him the coat of many colors
- 3. During His Youth When Yosef Dreams
- 4. In the Pit
- 5. In Beit Potiphar
- 6. In Prison as a dream interpreter

Parshat Miketz

- 7. When he is appointed Paroh's viceroy, Paroh's dreams come true and he is successful
- 8. When his brothers come

Parshat Vayigash

- 9. When he sees Benjamin
- 10. When his brothers do teshuva
- 11. After he reveals himself

Parshat Vayechi

12. When he goes back to Israel to bury his father Jacob/Yisrael and passes by the pit

A. When His Father Gave Yosef the Coat of Many Colors

<u>1. בראשית ל"ז:ג</u>

ּוִישְׂרָאֵל אָהַב אֵת־יוֹסֶף מִכָּל־בָּנָּיו כֵּי־בֵּן זִקְנֵים הְוּא לָוֹ וְעַשַּׁה לִוֹ כִּתְנֵת פַּסִים:

<u>Bereshit 37:3</u> (3) And Yisrael loved Yosef more than all his sons because he was a son of his old age, and he made him a long sleeved tunic.

Footnote #4 in AlHatorah.org ad loc. long sleeved tunic | בְּחֹנֶת פַּסִּים" — As the phrase appears only here and in Shemuel II 13 (where King David's daughter Tamar also wears a "בְּחַנֶּת פַּסִּים"), the meaning of "פַּסִים" is debated, though from context it appears to be a royal garment. Many relate it to the Aramaic "סֵּם" (Daniel 5:5) which refers to a palm. Thus, Bereshit Rabbah suggests a "long-sleeved tunic" (reaching the palm), while Shadal and R. D"Z Hoffmann suggest "a cloak which reached the ankle", noting that this was a sign of grandeur. Alternatively: "embroidered" (Ibn Ezra) or: "multi-colored" (Septuagint, Radak, and see R. Avraham b. HaRambam who explains that perhaps every span of it was a different color). Alternatively, the word refers to the material of which the cloak was made, fine wool (Rashi, comparing it to the word "ברפס", in Esther 1:6).

<u>2. ספורנו בראשית ל״ז:ג</u> ועשה לו כתנת פסים – לאות שיהיה הוא המנהיג בבית ובשדה, כענין ״והלבשתיו .2 .כתנתך״ (ישעיהו כ״ב :כ״א), וכאמרם זכרונם לברכה : בגדול אחי כי היכי דלשתמען מיליה (בבא בתרא י״א :)

2. Seforno He made for him a Ketonet Pasim a visible sign that Joseph was intended by him to become the leader of all the brothers both at home and in the field. The use of such distinctive clothing to symbolise someone's elevated stature is found also in Isaiah 22,21, "I will dress him (Chilkiyah) in your tunic," where it signals that authority is transferred to the one wearing the appropriate garments. (uniform). The Talmud Baba Kama 11 also confirms that authority is signaled by the attire worn by people possessing it.

B. During His Youth When Yosef Dreams

1. בראשית ל"ז פ' וישב

(א) וַיַּשֶׁב יַעַלְּב בָּאַרֵץ מָגוּרֵי אַבִּיו בָּאַרֵץ כָּנַעַן:

(ב) אֵלֶּהוֹ תֹּלְדְוֹת ֹיַעֲלָב **יוֹסֵׂף בֶּרְשְׁבֵעֹעשְׁרֵה שָׁנָה הָיָּה רְעֵה אֶת־אֶחִיוֹ בַּצֹּאוְ וְהָוֹא נַעַר אֶת־בְּגֵי בִּלְהָה וְאֶת־ בָּנִי זָלָפָּה נָשִׁי אָבִיו וַיָּבַא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דְּבָּתָם רָעָה אֶל־אַבִיהֵם:**

(גֹ) וִישְׂרָאֵל אָהַב אֶתֹיוֹסֶף מִבְּלֹבְּנִיוֹ בֵּיֹבַרְזְקָנִים הְוֹא לְוֹ וַעֲשָׁה לִוֹ בִּתְנֵת פַּסִים:

(ד) וַיִּרְאָוֹ אֵחָיוֹ כֵּי־אתוו אָהַב אֲבִיהֵם מִכָּל־אֱחָיוֹ וַיִּשְׂנְאָוּ אֹתְוֹ וְלָא ֹיָכְלְוֹ דַבְּרְוֹ לְשָׁלְם:

(ה) וַיַּחַלָּם יוֹסֶף חַלוֹם וַיַּגָּד לְאָחַיוֹ וַיוֹסֶפוּ עוֹד שְנָא אֹתָוֹ:

(ו) וַיִּאמֶר אַלֵיהָם שִׁמְעוֹינֵא הַחַלוֹם הַזָּה אַשֵּׁר חַלַמְתִּי:

(ז) וְּהִנֵּה אֲלַחְנוּ מְאַלְמִים אֲלֻמִּים בְּתִוֹךְ הַשְּׁלֶּה וְהִנֵּה קָמָה אֲלֻמָּתִי וְגַם־נִצֵּבָה וְהִנֵּה תְסֻבֶּינָה אֲלֻמְּתֵילֶם וּתִשׁתּחוּיו לאלמתי:

(ח) וַנִּאֹמָרוֹ לֹוֹ אֶלָיו הַמַלְדְ תִּמְלֹדְ עֲלֵינוּ אָם־מַשְׁוֹל תִּמְשִׁל בָּנוּ וַיּוֹסֵפוּ עוֹד שְׁנָא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלֹמֹתָיו וְעַל־דְּבָרֵיו:

(ט) וַיַּחֲלָם עוֹד חֲלָוֹם אַחֵּר וַיְסַפֵּר אֹתָוֹ לְאָחֶיו וַיִּאֹמֶר הִנֵּה חָלַמְתִּי חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרַח וְאַחֵד עשר כּוֹכבים משתחוים לי:

ָּ(יֹ) וַיְסַבֵּּרְ אֶל־אֶבִיוֹ וְאֶל־אֶחִירֹ וַיִּגְעַר־בִּוֹ אָבִּיו וַיָּאמֶר לוֹ מֶה הַחֲלִוֹם הַאָּה אֲשֶׁר חָלֶמְתָּ חַבְּוֹא נָבוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמְּךְ ואַחִידּ לִהשִׁתַּחַוֹת לִדְּ אַרְצַה:

(יא) וַיִּקַנָאוֹ־בָּוֹ אֶחָיו **וְאָבֵיו שְׁמֵר אֵת׳הַדָּבֵר:**

1. Bereshit 37

- (1) Yaakov dwelled in the land of his father's sojourning, in the land of Canaan.
- (2) These are the descendants of Yaakov. Yosef was seventeen years old and he would tend the flocks with his brothers; he was an assistant with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. Yosef brought a bad report regarding them to their father.
- (3) And Yisrael loved Yosef more than all his sons because he was a son of his old age, and he made him a coat of many colors.
- (4) His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, and they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.
- (5) Yosef dreamed a dream and he told his brothers, and they hated him even more.
- (6) He said to them, "Listen, now, to this dream that I dreamed.
- (7) Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field and my sheaf rose and even stood erect, and, behold, your sheaves surrounded and bowed down to my sheaf."
- (8) His brothers said to him, "Will you indeed reign over us? Will you indeed rule over us?" And they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.
- (9) He dreamed yet another dream and recounted it to his brothers, and he said, "Behold, I dreamed another dream, and, behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."
- (10) He recounted it to his father and his brothers. His father berated him and said to him, "What is this dream you dreamed? Will we really come, I and your mother and your brothers, to bow down to you to the ground?"
- (11) His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

2. רש״י בראשית ל״ז:ג בן זקונים – שנולד לו לעת זקנתו ואונקלוס תרגם: בר חכים הוא ליה – כל ... מה שלמד משם ועבר מסר לו

2. Rashi Bereshit 37:3 A SON OF HIS OLD AGE – for he was born in his old age. However, Onkelos translated: "he was a wise son to him" – all that he had learnt from Shem and Eber he taught him (Bereshit Rabbah 84:8).

<u>1. רש"י בראשית ל"ז:י"א</u> שמר את הדבר – היה ממתין מצפה מתי יבא, וכן: שומר אמונים (ישעיהו ביי), וכן: לא תשמור על חטאתי (איוב י"ד: ט"ז) – לא תמתין

3. Rashi 37:11 OBSERVED THE MATTER – He awaited and looked forward to the time when this would come to pass. In the same sense we have (Isaiah 26:2) "that watch (שומר) for faithfulness" (i.e., for the performance of a promise) and (Job 14:16) – לא תשמור" – which means "you do not wait for my sin".

4. ספורנו בראשית ל"ז:י"א

ואביו שמר – שחשב שיהיה החלום אמתי, והיה מתאוה ומצפה שיתקיים, כאמרם זכרונם לברכה: בכל אדם מתקנא חוץ מבנו ותלמידו (סנהדרין ק״ה:)

<u>4. Seforno 37:11</u>, he remembered it because he thought that the dream reflected what would in fact occur. In fact, his father was looking forward to the fulfillment of Joseph's dream. This reflects the statement in the Talmud Sanhedrin 105 that a person may be jealous of everyone except his students and his children.

<u>5. רמב"ן בראשית ל"ז:ג</u> ואיננו נכון בעיני, כי הכתוב אמר שאהב את יוסף מכל בניו בעבור שהוא בן זקונים, וגם כל בניו נולדו לו לזקוניו, והנה יששכר וזבולון אינם גדולים מיוסף רק כשנה או שנתים והנראה בעיני: כי מנהג הזקנים שיקח אחד מבניו הקטנים להיות עמו לשרתו, והוא נשען על ידו תמיד לא יפרד ממנו, והוא נקרא לו בן זקוניו בעבור שישרת לזקוניו. והנה לקח יעקב את יוסף לדבר הזה והיה עמו תמיד, ועל כן לא ילך עם הצאן ברעותם במקום רחוק

5. Ramban Bereshit 37:3

But in my opinion this is not correct for the verse states that Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children because he was the son of his old age, whereas all his children were born to him during his old age! Issachar and Zebulun were not more than a year or two older than Joseph. The correct interpretation appears to me to be that it was the custom of the elders to take one of their younger sons to be with them to attend them. He would constantly lean on his arm, never being separated from him, and he would be called ben z'kunav because he attended him in his old age. Now Jacob took Joseph for this purpose, and he was with him constantly. He therefore did not accompany the flock when they went to pasture in distant places.

C. In the Pit

1. בראשית ל"ז:כ"ד

(כד) וַיִּקְחָהוּ וַיַּשְׁלֶכוּ אֹתָוֹ הַבָּרָה וְהַבְּוֹר בֶּק אֵין בִּוֹ מֵיִם:

1. Bereishit 37:24 They took him and threw him into the pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

2. רש"י בראשית ל"ז:כ"ד

ממשמע שנאמר: והבור רק יודע אני שאין בו מים, מה תלמוד לומר אין בו מים? מים אין בו, אבל נחשים ועקרבים יש בו

2. Rashi **37:24** AND THE PIT WAS EMPTY, THERE WAS NO WATER IN IT – Since it states, "the pit was empty", do I not know that "there was no water in it"? What then is the force of "there was no water in it"? Water, indeed it did not contain, but there were serpents and scorpions in it (Shabbat 22a).

D. In Beit Potiphar

<u>1. בראשית ל"ט:א</u>

וְיוֹסֵף הוּרַד מִצְרֶיְמָה וַיִּקְנֵהוּ פּוֹטִיפַר ּ סְרִּיס פַּרְעֹה שַׂר הַשַּבָּחִים ֹאִישׁ מִצְרִי מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדָהוּ שָׁפָּה:

- (ב) וְיָהֵי יָהוָה אַת־יוֹסֶף וְיָ**הִי אִישׁ מַצְלִיח** וְיָהֶי בָּבֵית אַדנִיו הַמַּצְרֵי:
- (ג) וירא אדניו כּי יהוה אתו וכל אשר הוא עשה יהוה מצליח בידו:
- (ד) וַיִּמְצֶּאֹ יוֹמֵף חֵוֹ בְּעֵינָיו וַיְשָׁרֶת אֹתֶוֹ וַיִּפְקְדֵהוּ עֵׁל־בֵּיתוֹ וְכְל־יֶשׁ־לְוֹ נְתַן בְּיָדוֹ :... (ט) אֵינֶנּוּ נְדוֹל בַּבְּיִת חַזֶּה מִפֶּנִּי וְלָא־חָשַׁךְּ מִפֶּנִּי מְאוּמָה בִּי אִם־אוֹתָךְ בַּאֲשֶׁר אַבְּ־אִשְׁתֵּוֹ וְאֵיךְ אֶעֱשֶׁה הָרָעָה הַגְּדֹלָה הַזּאת וְחָטָאתִי לֵאלהֵים
- 1. Bereishit 39:1 Yosef had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, Paroh's officer, the chief executioner, an Egyptian man, bought him from the Yishmaelites who had brought him down there. (2) Hashem was with Yosef and he became a successful man; and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. (3) His master saw that Hashem was with him and that Hashem made all that he did succeed in his hand. (4) Yosef found favor in his eyes and he served him; and he appointed him over his house, and all he had he gave into his hand...(9) There is no one in this house greater than I, and he did not keep anything from me, except

for you, as you are his wife. How can I do this great evil? I would be sinning against Hashem!"

E. In Prison as a Dream Interpreter

1. בראשית ל"ט:כ

ָּ(כ) וַיִּקַּחְ אֲדֹנֵי יוֹטֵׁף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵחוּ אֶל־בֵּית הַפְּהַר מְקְּוֹם אֲשֶׁר־[אֲסִירֵי] (אסורי) הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסוּרֵים וַיְהִי־ שַׁם בָּבֵית הַפְּהַר:

(כֹא) וֹיִהָּי הֹ אַת־יוֹסֶׁף וַיֵּט אָלֵיו חֶסֶד וַיְתֵּן חְנוֹ בְּעִינֵי שַׁר בֵּית־הַסְּהַר:

(בב) וַיִּתֵּן שַׁר בֵּית־חֵפֹּהַרֹ בְּיַד־יּוֹלַף אֲת בְּלֹיהָאֲסִירְּם אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַסְּהַר וְאֵת בְּל־אֲשֶׁר עֹשִׁים שְׁם הָוּא היה עשה :

(כֹג) אַין! שַׁר בַּיתיהַסֹּהָר רֹאָה אַת־בַּל־מאוֹמַה בַּיָדוֹ בַאֲשֵׁר ה אַתוֹ וַאַשַּׁר־הוא עשה ה מצלים:

1. Bereshit 39:20

- 20) Yosef's master took him and placed him in jail, the place where the king's prisoners were imprisoned, and he was there in the jail.
- (21) Hashem was with Yosef, and He extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the eyes of the chief jailer.
- (22) The chief jailer placed all the prisoners in the jail in the hands of Yosef, and all that needed to be done there, he would do.
- (23) The chief jailer did not oversee anything that was in his hand, for Hashem was with him and whatever he did Hashem made succeed.

2. בראשית מ':ח

ַנִּאמְרָוּ אֵלֶיוּ חֲלָוֹם חָלַמְנוּ וּפֹתֵר אָין אֹתֵוֹ וַנִּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶׁם יוֹסֵׁף הֲלָוֹא לֵאלֹהִים פְּתְרֹנְים סַפְּרוּיָגָא לֵי: ... (יג) בְּעָוֹד! שְלָשֶׁת יָמִים יִשָּׂא פַרְעֹה אֶת־רֹאשֶׁךּ וַהֲשִׁיבְדָּ עַל־כַּנֶּדְ וְנָתַתָּ כוֹס־פַּרְעֹה בְּיָדוֹ כַּמִשְׁפָּט הֵרְאשׁוֹן אַשֵּׁר הַיִיתַ מֵשְׁקָהוּ:

בָּיָת הָנֵּי הָבֶּיְלְתֵּנִי אִתְּדְּ פַּאֲשֶׁר ֹיָיטֵב לֶּדְּ וְעָשִׁיתָ־נָא עִמָּדָי חֲסֶד וְהִזְפַּרְתַּנִי אֶל־פַּרְעוֹה וְהוֹצֵאתַנִי מִרְ הַבַּיִת הַנֵּה:

ָּ(טוֹ) כֵּיזגֵנְב גַּנַּבְתִּי מֵאֶרֶץ הָעִבְרֵים וְגַם־פֹּה לֹא־עָשִיתֵי מְאוּמָה **בֵּי־שָׁמִוּ אֹתָי בַּבְּוֹר:** ... (כג) וְלְאֹ־זָכַרְ שֵׂר־ הַמַשְׁקֵים אַת־יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁכַּחָהוּ:

- **2.** Bereshit 40:8 They said to him, "We dreamed a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Yosef said to them, "Does not God have interpretations? Please, recount them to me." ... (13) In another three days Paroh will lift up your head and return you to your post and you
- will place Paroh's cup into his hand as was your former custom when you were his cupbearer.
- (14) But, if you would keep me in mind with you when it will be well with you, please do me a kindness and make mention of me to Paroh and take me out of this house.
- (15) For indeed, I was stolen from the land of the Hebrews, and here, too, I did not do anything that **they should have put me into the pit**." ... (23) And the chief cupbearer did not remember Yosef; he forgot him.

<u>5. רש"י בראשית מ':כ"ג</u> ולא זכר שר המשקים – בו ביום. וישכחהו – לאחר כן. מפני שתלה בו יוסף לזוכרו, הוזקק להיות אסור עד שתי שנים, שנאמר: אשרי הגבר אשר שַם י"י מבטחו ולא פנה אל רהבים (תהלים מ':ה') – לא בטח על מצרים הקרואים רהב (ישעיהו ל':ז')

3. Rashi Bereshit 40:23 AND THE CHIEF OF THE BUTLERS DID NOT REMEMBER HIM – on that day, וישבחהו AND HE FORGOT HIM – afterwards. Because Joseph had placed his trust in him that he should remember him he was doomed to remain in prison for two years. So it is said (Psalms 40:5) "Happy is the man who makes Hashem his trust and turns not to (רהבים) the

arrogant" – i.e. does not trust in the Egyptians who are called arrogant (Bereshit Rabbah 89:3 cf. Isaiah 30:7).

F. Paroh's Viceroy

1. בראשית מ"א:כ"ה

ָּכָה) וַיָּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֱל־פַּרְעֹה חֲלָוֹם פַּרְעָה אֶחָד הִוּא אֵת אֲשֶׁר הָאֱלֹהֶים עֹשֶׂה הִגִּיד לְפַרְעֹה: ... ולג) ועתּה ירא פרעה **איש נבון וחבֶם** וִישִּׁיתָהוּ עַל־אֲרֵץ מִצְרֵיִם:

(לד) יַעַשֵׁה פַּרְעֹה וְיִפְבֵּקֹד פִּקְדָרִים עַלֹּהָאָרץ וְהְפֵּשׁ אַתֹּבֹּאֵרץ מְצְרַיִם בְּשָׁבַע שִׁנֵי הַשְּׁבַע:

ָּ(לֹה) וֹיִקְבָּצֹוּ אֵת־כָּל־אُבֶל הַשַּׁנֵים הַטּבּוֹת הַבָּאְת הָאֵלֵה וֹיִצִבְּרוֹיבָר הַתַּחַת יַדֹּבַּרְעָה אָכֶל בֶּעָרָים וְשָׁבְּחוּ:

(לז) ויִיטֶב הַדַבר בּעִינֵי פַרעה וּבְעִינֵי כַּלֹעַבְדֵיו:

(לח) וָיּאֹמֵר פַּרְעָה אֵלֹּעבדַיוֹ הַנִּמְצֵא כַּזָּה אָישׁ אַשַׁר רוּח אַלֹּהִים בּוֹי

(לט) וַיִּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אָל־יִוֹסֶׁף אַחַלִּי הוֹדִיע אַלהִים אוֹתִדְּ אֵת־כַּלֹּזְאַת אַיִרְנָבוֹן וְחַכֵּם כַּמוֹדְּ:

(מ) אַתַּה תַּהְיֵה עַל־בִּיתִּי וְעַל־פִּיֹדְ יִשֵּׁק בַּל־עַמֵּי רֵק הַכְּסֵאׁ אֵגְדֵּל מְמֵדַ:

ָּ (מא) וַיִּאמֵר בּוֹרַעָה אֵל־יוֹסֶף רְאֵה נָתַתְּי אָתִדְּ עַל כָּל־אֲרֵץ מִּצְרֵיִם:

ָּ(מב) וַלָּסַרֹ פַּרְעָׂהֹ אֶתֹ־טַבַּעְתוֹ ֹמֵעַל יָדֹו וַיִּתֵּן אֹתֶהּ עַׁלֹיַדֹּ יוֹסֵף וַיַּלְבָּשׁ אֹתוֹ בִּגְדֵי־שֵּׁשׁ וַיָּשֶׂם רְבָד הַזְּהָב עַל־ צוּארו:

ּ (מֹג) וַיִּרְבֵּב אֹתוֹ בְּמִרְבֶּבֶת הַמִּשְׁנֶת אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְפְּנָיו אַבְּרֵדְ וְנָתַוֹן אֹתוֹ עַל כְּל־אֶנֶךְ מִצְרֵיִם:

ַ (מד) וַיָּאֹמֵר פַּרְעָה אֵלֹ־יוֹמֵף אַנִּי פַרְעָה וּבִלְעָדֵידְ לְאֹיָרְיֹם אָישׁ אֵתֹיַנֶדָוֹ וְאֵת־רַגְלְוֹ בִּכֶּל־אֵרֵץ מִצְרָיִם:

(מה) וַזִּיקְרָּא בַּרְעַה שַׁם־יוֹמֹף בָּצְבְּנַת פַּעְנֵחַ וִיּהָּרִין שֶׁת־אָסְנַת בַּת־פִּוֹסִי בֶּלִא בֹּהֶן אֶן לְאִשְׁה וַיֵּצְאֹ יוֹמֵף על־ארץ מצרים:

ָ(מוֹ) **֖וֹיוֹסֵף בֶּּרִשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָּה** בְּעָמְדֹּוֹ לִפְנֵי פַּרְעָה מֶלֶדּ־מִצְרָיִם וַיֵּצֵא יוֹסֵף מִלּפְנֵי פַּרְעֹה וַיַּעֲבָּר בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרֵיִם :

- 1. Bereshit 41:25 Yosef said, "Paroh's dream is one. What God is to do, He has told Paroh...
- 33) And now, let Paroh look for an insightful and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt.
- (34) Let Paroh do this: let him appoint overseers for the land and exact a fifth from the land of Egypt during the seven years of plenty.
- (35) They will collect all the food from these coming good years, and they will pile up grain under the hand of Paroh, food in the cities, and guard it.
- (36) And the food will be a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine that will be in the land of Egypt; and the land will not perish from the famine."
- (37) And the matter seemed good in the eyes of Paroh and the eyes of his servants.
- (38) Paroh said to his servants, "Can a man like this be found, who has the spirit of God in him?"
- (39) Paroh said to Yosef, "After God has made known to you all this, there is none as insightful and wise as you.
- (40) You shall be in charge of my house, and by your mouth will all my people be provided for; only by the throne will I be greater than you."
- (41) Paroh said to Yosef, "See, I have placed you over all of the land of Egypt."
- (42) Paroh removed his ring from his hand and put it on the hand of Yosef, and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and he put the golden chain on his neck.
- (43) He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they called out before him "kneel down"; and he placed him over all of the land of Egypt.
- (44) Paroh said to Yosef, "I am Paroh; without you, no man shall raise hand or foot in all of the land of Egypt."
- (45) Paroh called Yosef by the name Tzafenat Paneach and gave him Asenat, daughter of Poti-Phera, priest of On, as a wife. Yosef went out over the land of Egypt.
- (46) **And Yosef was thirty years old when he stood before Paroh,** the king of Egypt. Yosef went out from before Paroh and passed through all of the land of Egypt.

G. When Yosef's Brothers Come

1. בראשית מ״ב:ז (ז) נַיּרָא יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו וַיַּכָּרֶם וַיִּתְנַבֵּּר אֲלֵיהֶׁם וַיְדַבֵּּר אִתָּם קשׁוֹת וַיִּאֹמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מֵאַיִן בָּאתֶּם וַיִּאמָרוּ מֵאֱרֵץ כְּּנָעֵן לִשְׁבָּר־אִכֵל: וַיִּאמִרוּ מֵאֱרֵץ כְּנַעֵן לִשְׁבָּר־אָכֵל:

(ח) וַיַּבֶּר יוֹסֵף אַת־אַחֵיוֹ וְהָם לָא הְכָּרָהוּ:

(ט) וַיּיִזְכָּר יוֹטַף אָת הַחֲלֹמוֹת אֲשֶׁר חָלָם לָהֶם וַיָּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מְרַגְּלֵים אַתֶּם לִרְאֶוֹת אֶת־עֶרְוַת הָאָרֵץ בָּאתֵם:

1. Bereshit 42:7 Yosef saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke to them harshly. He said to them, "From where have you come?" They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." (8) Yosef recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. (9) Yosef remembered the dreams that he dreamed about them and he said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

2. ר׳ יוסף בכור שור בראשית מ״ב:ז ויכירם – כי היה מצפה להם שמא יבואו מפני הרעב, כי דרכם של אבות לבא מצרימה מפני הרעב, כמה שנאמר: ויהי רעב בארץ וירד אברם מצרימה (בראשית י״ב:י׳), וכן יצחק עד שהקב״ה אמר לו: אל תרד מצרימה (בראשית כ״ו:ב׳). והם אינם מצפים שיהיה מלך ויתנכר אליהם – חשב אם אגלה להם עצמי מיד, מפני שהם בושים על שמכרו אחיהם וציערו אביהם, יאמרו לי: שתוק אתה מושבע ועומד שלא תגלה אותנו. ואמר להם קשות ומרגלים אתם, ודחקם עד שהביאו בנימין, ונתן הגביע באמתחתו, ואמר לעכבו לעבד. וכשראה אותם דחוקים, שהיו יראים לחטא {ל}אביהם, גילה עצמו, כי אז ידע שעל כרחם . יגלו גם הם, שלא יעכב בנימין

2. Rabbi Yosef Bechor Shor

– I'E RECOGNIZED THEM – Because he was expecting them, maybe they would come because of the famine, because the way of the patriarchs was to come to Egypt in the face of famine, like it says: "There was a famine in the land and Avram descended to Egypt" (Bereshit 12:10), and so too Yitzchak, until the Blessed Holy One said to him: "Do not go down to Egypt" (Bereshit 26:2). But they did not expect him to be king.

And our Rabbis explained (Bavli Bava Metzia 39b): That they had the signs of a beard at the time of the sale, and [their appearance] did not change to him, but he did not have signs of a beard, and now his beard grew and [his appearance] was changed to them.

ויתנכר אליהם – HE ACTED AS A STRANGER TO THEM – He thought, if I reveal myself right away, since they are embarrassed that they sold their brother and pained their father, they will say to me: Be quiet, you are still sworn not to reveal us. And he spoke to them HARSHLY and YOU ARE SPIES, and pressured them until they brought Binyamin, and placed the cup in his satchel, and said he would hold him as a slave. And when he saw them pressured, that they were afraid to sin {to} their father, he revealed himself, because he then knew that against their will they too would reveal, so that Binyamin would not be detained.

3. Ramban Bereshit 42:9

AND JOSEPH REMEMBERED THE DREAMS WHICH HE DREAMED OF THEM. [That is, he remembered the dreams which he dreamed] concerning them, and now knew that they had been fulfilled, for they had bowed down to him. This is the language of Rashi.

In my opinion, the matter is the reverse. Scripture states that when Joseph saw his brothers bowing down to him, he remembered all the dreams which he had dreamed concerning them and he knew that in this instance, not one of the dreams had been fulfilled. He knew that it was inherent in their interpretation that according to the first dream, at first all his brothers would bow down to him, as it says, And, behold, we were binding sheaves, for "we" refers to all eleven of his brothers. The second time, in accordance with the second dream, the sun, the moon and eleven stars would bow down to him. Now since he did not see Benjamin with them, he conceived of the strategy of devising a charge

against them so that they would also bring his brother Benjamin to him, in order to first fulfill the first dream. It is for this reason that he did not wish to tell them at this time, I am Joseph your brother, and to say, Hasten and go up to my father, and send wagons, as he did to them the second time, for in that case his father would undoubtedly have come at once. It was only after fulfillment of the first dream that he told them, I am Joseph your brother, etc., in order to fulfill the second dream. Were it not for this consideration, Joseph would indeed be regarded as having committed a great sin: bringing anguish to his father, leaving him for many days in the position of being bereft and mourning for Simeon and him. Even if it was his intention to cause his brothers minor anguish, how did he not have compassion for his elderly father? But he assigned each to its proper time in order to fulfill the dreams, knowing that they would truly be fulfilled. Also, the second matter, which he effected against them in connection with the goblet, is not to be interpreted as if his intention was to cause them anguish, but rather because he suspected that they might hate Benjamin as a result of their jealousy of him on account of his father's love for him, just as they were jealous of Joseph. Perhaps Benjamin had sensed that they had harmed Joseph, thus causing a quarrel and hatred to erupt between him and his brothers. Therefore, Joseph did not wish Benjamin to travel with them until he had tested their love for him, lest they harm him.

It is to this matter that our Rabbis in Bereshith Rabbah referred when they said: "Rabbi Chiya the son of Rabbi Abba said, 'When you read the entire plea which Judah made in the presence of his brothers, until you reach the verse, Then Joseph could not refrain himself, [you can see that] there was in it an attempt to win the sympathy of Joseph, the sympathy of his brothers, and the sympathy of Benjamin. Joseph's sympathy [would be gained since Joseph would think], 'See how he is ready to give his life for Rachel's children, etc.'"

Similarly I say that all these acts of Joseph are accounted for by his wisdom in the interpretation of the dreams. Otherwise, one should wonder: After Joseph stayed in Egypt for many years and became chief and overseer in the house of a great lord in Egypt, how was it possible that he did not send a single letter to his father to inform him of his whereabouts and comfort him, as Egypt is only about a six-day journey from Hebron? Even if it were a year's journey, out of respect to his father, he should have notified him, in which case even if the ransom of his person would be ever so costly, he would have redeemed him. But it was because Joseph saw that the bowing down of his brothers, as well as his father and all his family, could not possibly be accomplished in their homeland, and he was hoping that it would be effected in Egypt when he saw his great success there. This was all the more so after he heard Pharaoh's dream, from which it became clear to him that all of them were destined to come there, and all his dreams would be fulfilled.

H. When Joseph Sees Benjamin

בראשית מ״ג:כ״ט (כט) וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינִיו וַיַּבְא אֶת־בִּנְיָמֵין אָחִיוֹ בֶּן־אִמוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר חֲזֶהֹ אֲחִיכֶם הַקְּטֹן אֲשֶׁר אֲמֵרְהֶּם אֵלֶי וַיִּאמֵר אֱלֹהָים יָחְנְךָּ בְּנֵי: (ל) וַיְמַתֵּר יוֹסֵף כֵּיינְכְמְרָוּ רַחֲמָיוֹ אֶל־אָחִיו וַיְבַקָּשׁ לְבְכֵּוֹת וַיָּבַקָּשׁ לְבְכֵּוֹת וַיָּבָּךְ שֻׁמָּה:

1. Bereshit 43:29 (29) He lifted his eyes and saw his brother Binyamin, the son of his mother, and he said, "Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke to me?" He said, "May God grant you favor, my son." (30) Yosef hurried because he was filled with compassion for his brother and he sought to weep; he went into the room and wept there.

I. When the Brothers Do Teshuva

1. בראשית מ״ד:ל״ב

ַ(לב) כֵּי עַבְדְּדְּ עָרָב אֶת־הַנַּעַר מֵעָם אָבֶי לֵאמֶר אִם־לָא אֲבִיאֶנוּ אֵלֶידְ וְחָטָאתִי לְאָבֶי כְּלֹהַיָּמֵים: (לג) וְעַתָּה יֵשֶׁב־גָא עַבְדְּדְּ תַּחַת הַנַּעַר אֶבֶד לַאדֹנֵי וְהַנָּעַר יְעַל עִם־אֶחֶיו: (לד) כִּיאֵידְ אֱעֱלָה אֶל־אָבִי וְהַנָּער אֵינֶנוּ אִתִּי פֶּן אֶרְאֶה בָּרָע אֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא אֶת־אָבֵי: בראשית מ״ה:א וְלָא־יָכֵל יוֹסַף לְהִתְאַפַּק לְלָל הַנִּצְּבִים עָלֶיו וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אָישׁ מֵעָלֵי וְלא־אָמַד אִישׁ אִתְּוֹ בָּהִתְוַדְע יוֹסֵף אֵל־אָחָיו:

1. Bereshit 44:32 (32) For your servant guaranteed the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him to you, I will have sinned against my father for all time.' (33) Now, let your servant remain as a slave to my master in the boy's stead, and the boy will go up with his brothers. (34) For, how will I go up to my father if the boy is not with me? Lest I see the evil that will find my father!" 45:1 Yosef could not control himself....

VI. When Did Yosef Realize that He Had a Greater Destiny? & When Did He Realize He was a Shaliach Hashem?

Parshat Vayeitzei

1. From Birth

Parshat Vayeishev [skip parshat Vayishlach]

- 2. When his father gives him the coat of many colors
- 3. During His Youth When Yosef Dreams
- 4. In the Pit
- 5. In Beit Potiphar
- 6. In Prison as a dream interpreter

Parshat Miketz

- 7. When he is appointed Paroh's viceroy, Paroh's dreams come true and he is successful
- 8. When his brothers come

Parshat Vayigash

- 9. When he sees Benjamin
- 10. When his brothers do teshuva
- 11. After he reveals himself

Parshat Vayechi

12. When he goes back to Israel to bury his father Jacob/Yisrael and passes by the pit

VII. Reflection Points and Inflection Points

1. תהלים ק"ז:מ"ג (מג) מי־חכם וישמר־אלה וותבּוֹננוּ חסדי ה'

1.Tehillim 107:43 Whoever is wise, let him observe these things, and let them consider the kindnesses of Hashem.

2. R. Moshe Yitzchak Ashkenazi (1821-1898, Italy)

<u>הואיל משה תהלים ק"ז:מ"ג</u> וישמר – מלשון ואביו שמר את הדבר (פרשת וישב) ויעקב ראה והבין שאחי יוסף מקנאים בו וע"כ שלחו להם כעבד לשאול בשלומם, א"כ וישמר ישים לב ויבין, והראיה ויתבוננו שאחריו